

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application, claims 3-7 and 9-13 of which have been allowed, claims 14-18 of which have been found to contain allowable subject matter, and claims 1, 2, and 8 of which stand rejected. Based on the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Restriction Requirement

Without acquiescence that any of claims 1-18 are so-limited, Applicant hereby elects the invention illustrated in Fig. 4 without traverse.

Specification Objection

The specification stands objected to as failing to provide antecedent basis for the "analog/digital" language recited in claims 14 and 17. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, since the "analog/digital" language is referred to throughout the specification. However, to make the claim language consistent with the specification, the title and claims 3, 5, and 8 have instead been amended to change the "digital/analog" language to "analog/digital." As such, Applicant respectfully request withdrawal of the specification objections.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 2, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,560,757 ("Ballam") in view of U.S. Patent 5,036,473 ("Butts"). Without acquiescence that the combination of Ballam and Butts would render claims 1, 2, and 8

obvious, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, since Ballam is not prior art to the claimed invention. In particular, the filing date of the subject application (i.e., August 28, 2000) predates the 102(e) filing date of the Ballam patent (i.e., October 19, 2000). As such, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §103 rejections of these claims.

Allowable Subject Matter


Applicant graciously acknowledges the Examiner's allowance of claims 3-7 and 9-13. Applicant believes that the objections to the specification have been favorably responded to, and as such, respectfully request allowance of claims 14-18, which the Examiner has indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, it is believed that all claims are now allowable and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (713) 830-0606.

Respectfully submitted,

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